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A FUTURE  
FOR THE  
DEAF AND DUMB  
IN THE  
CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

BEING AN ACCOUNT OF A FIRST ATTEMPT AT  
COLONISATION IN THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST, BY  
MISS JANE ELIZABETH GROOM,  
AND A PLAN OF HER FUTURE OPERATIONS.

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*"Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food  
convenient for me."*

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**Respectfully Dedicated**

TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE

**PROFESSOR HENRY FAWCETT.**

Whose noble example of a heroic victory over a sad affliction has been, and ever will be, a source of sorrowful consolation to those who, though deprived of the powers of speech and hearing, strive to overcome these defects of nature, and endeavour to be useful citizens. The following pages are also tendered as a personal tribute by

THE AUTHOR.

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**IN MEMORIAM.**

November 6th, 1884.

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# A FUTURE FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB

IN THE

## CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

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*Being an account of a first attempt at Colonisation in the Canadian North-West by Miss Jane Elizabeth Groom; and a plan of her future operations.*

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### I.—INTRODUCTORY.

The writer of the following pages enters upon his task with much diffidence and some anxiety; diffidence on the question whether his advocacy will carry the weight which his subject deserves, and anxiety as to whether the exceedingly brief manner in which this important social question is discussed will in any way militate against the force of the statements made. One only course was open to him, after the rejection of the suggestion to make this pamphlet assume the dimensions appertaining to book form, and this was to treat it as briefly as possible, consistent with carrying out a most momentous duty. This is an age too rapid to encourage lengthy dissertations even upon the most important subjects, and the liberty is taken of considering Miss Jane Elizabeth Groom's noble work one of these. The classes of readers who will carefully peruse a pamphlet diminish and become proportionately more and more remote as the subject-matter of such a work as this increases in volume. To avoid this undesirable consummation, therefore, a conciseness will appear in the statements and suggestions hereinafter to be made, which may, perhaps, seem to be abrupt and very businesslike. It is hoped that this will not be held to be in any way disrespectful to the duty the writer has been called upon to fulfil, or unmindful of the responsibilities he has undertaken in calling public attention to a magnifi-



cent philanthropic project. To the various eminent persons whose words or whose writings have been quoted in the following pages, he desires to express his sincere feeling of indebtedness, and also to declare that much of that which is the most interesting part of this pamphlet is that which he has borrowed. With this explanation all personal matter on the part of the writer is disposed of.

It is the desire of Miss Groom that the earliest opportunity should be taken of publicly thanking a benevolent deaf lady (who is herself the descendant of an eminent philanthropist) for the kind help she has accorded to Miss Groom in her Emigration Scheme; in this she has taken a most lively interest, and has worked hard both in her own sphere, and in any other direction where the interest of herself or of her family could be of service. It is to be hoped that her generous example may be followed by other ladies and gentlemen who are either afflicted themselves, or who have the time and means of alleviating the afflictions of others.

In another quarter also are thanks due to a great friend of the deaf and dumb, a gentleman of position residing in the West End of London, who is at present at the Antipodes. This gentleman is in no way afflicted as are the poor persons he so cordially assists and in whose welfare he takes much interest, but he has endeared himself to all of them. They "look upon him as one of themselves," to quote their own words. "His return is looked forward to with anxiety, and he will be welcomed with delight." Some of them have proclaimed their wishes for his return at their meetings; and this circumstance shows how grateful are the deaf and dumb for favours bestowed. The deaf and dumb have also secured another friend in a lady of position, who invites them to her house, enquires after their troubles, and relieves them; and in order to be of more use to her new *protégées* she is learning the sign language so as to be enabled to converse freely with them.

Such "ministering angels" as these are deserving of all praise; and, if in addition to the friends already devoted to the following scheme, some more can be secured by the details which will now be given of it, so that a proper Emigration Society for the Deaf and Dumb Poor could be established, it would confer incalculable blessings on these deserving sufferers. Patronage and support are needed, and, encouraged by the meed of both which has been already obtained, Miss Groom is hopeful of bringing her plans to a successful issue.

## II.—THE CONDITION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB POOR IN ENGLAND.

The sad cases of distress, of starvation even, among the deaf and dumb in London are experiences which are ever before us. It is not caused by the reason that the deaf mutes will not work, but it is that they cannot obtain sufficient employment; they are not needed in the community, there is too much competition to cause them to be needed in London or in the great centres of labour. They cannot get work to do in most localities, and, in others, the pay is low because of their inability to compete successfully with those who are not deprived of their powers of speech and hearing. Amongst themselves they can manage to eke out a miserable livelihood, only; and their wages average from sixteen shillings and sixpence to thirty shillings a-week, or, in rare cases, a little more than the sum last named. This, even in comparison with ordinary labourers' and artisans' pay, is low; and the consequence is that they naturally have much difficulty in keeping body and soul together; as regards their habitations and the means they have for overcoming their social disadvantages, the readers of these pages can imagine as well as if a lengthy description of the struggles and privations were given. Only those who have had the means of personally investigating such a painful phase of human existence can adequately realise what misery such a state of things entails. These poor people, who strive their hardest, can seldom manage to carry on their livelihoods without extraneous assistance. Of this there are three kinds; first, the assistance that comes through relatives who may be in a better position from a worldly point of view, which, alas! in many cases is a difference difficult enough to distinguish; second, the assistance which is given by persons charitably disposed direct to individuals; and, last, the assistance which is given by charitable institutions established for the relief of the deaf and dumb. Now, it has been said above, that the assistance given by friends and relations to the Deaf and Dumb poor is but slight: this of course is necessarily so. These poor people are ever the readiest to assist their suffering brethren and it is one of the wonderful and agreeable phases of English life among the lower orders, that they are constantly making efforts to help each other; but help is given in a way which cannot keep the wolf from the door when the bad times come. The Deaf Mute gets out of work, becomes more than usually short of money, the assistance from relatives, from friends, from the charitable

amongst strangers, and from the institutions specially devoted to give such relief, do not in all amount to enough to keep him and his family when out of work, and, as a natural consequence, his rent becomes in arrear and his landlord gives him notice. The parish, then, is his only chance ; and to the parish the deaf mute is no less averse than his speaking and hearing brother. The idea of going to the Union to an able-bodied, willing man, whose only desire is to earn a fair day's pay by a fair day's work, is a torture which happily but few can realise ; and from this fate he shrinks while he can keep a semblance of manhood in him. In the closely populated district of Hackney, where the ministrations of Miss Groom have been for a long time past conducted with much success, that lady has observed cases which will confirm all the above remarks. An idea which was originated lately for carrying into practice, a proper system of relief among the deaf and dumb poor might with advantage be carried out. It was to establish a Committee of ladies and gentlemen, locally, to investigate all cases of distress ; to remove the offices of " The Royal Association in aid of the Deaf and Dumb " from St. Saviour's Church in Oxford Street to the city office, where the Chaplain and Secretary could meet applicants on certain days ; so that the recipients of relief should not have to exhaust the greater part of their relief money on travelling to and from the present offices of the Royal Association. The committee of this excellent organisation consists principally of gentlemen who are not able to devote as much time as is needed to investigations ; whereas if they were associated with lady helpers, who would look after the female applicants and generally assist in the outdoor duties, much practical good could be done. But even allowing that this idea were carried out, the fact remains only too patent that in the fierce struggle for existence in the old country the poorer members of the deaf and dumb community—and they are a numerous class—have no chance of earning sufficient to render their condition one of industrial independence. To alter this state of things what is to be done ? To take these poor people from the category of recipients of the charity of others and to make them able to earn a decent competence, what scheme should be devised ? Amidst all the contending claims of a busy life the idea of Emigration occurred to Miss Groom ; and, as far as she has as yet proceeded in her mission, her efforts have been crowned with a gratifying success. It must be recollected by all who kindly peruse these pages that the deaf and dumb are not to be

classed as some folk are too ready always to class them ; that is, as only a little removed from those of the human family who are incapable of taking care of themselves or taking an active part in the affairs of life. Than this idea none more erroneous was ever formulated. The deaf mute—thanks to the progress of the science of teaching him to overcome the defects of nature, which has been marvellously successful—is as capable in his way as any other man, to enter into the business of life and to strive, and to work for himself and his family. But the social disabilities stand in his way if he is poor ; and, as this is so, nothing could be a kinder or a wiser thing to do, for the benefit of the State, than to devise a scheme of lifting him out of the slough of despond and of providing him with the means of holding up his head as a worker on equal terms with the rest of humanity.

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### III.—THE FIRST IDEA OF MISS GROOM'S SCHEME.

"I have noticed so much distress amongst the deaf and dumb that I feel perfectly sad at witnessing it, and I am sure that nothing can be done for them here to establish them satisfactorily. My opinion on this subject is that the only way to accomplish their ultimate well-being is to carry out my scheme of emigration to Canada. I am much interested in the welfare and happiness of a large number of deaf mutes, and I desire that a grant of land be made by Her Majesty's Government in Canada for the deaf and dumb and their families, so that they may be afforded the opportunity of being healthy, bright, useful and happy without being dependent—as is often the case at present—upon their relations. I propose that each deaf and dumb person with family shall receive from fifty to one hundred and sixty acres for cultivation, and, if deserving, one hundred and sixty more, as provided in the offer to emigrants by the Canadian Government : . . . many of them now are and have been a long time out of employment, and they experience great difficulty in obtaining any in consequence of the overcrowded condition of the country. Deaf and dumb persons are particularly liable to consumption, through lack of regular nourishment and of cheerful society, and also of proper exercise of the lungs consequent on being deprived of the power of speech and hearing. These conditions combined are liable to produce a state of fretfulness and

unhappiness not at all conducive to health and I find that the majority of deaf and dumb people have large families in a great measure dependent upon them in this country, who would be of great service to them in colonisation. Much distress has been occasioned by the straitened conditions of the funds of the Royal Association in aid of the deaf and dumb, and the consequent inability of the Committee to offer constant relief to those who are really deserving. Should the scheme be carried out, I am sure it will tend greatly to lessen the burdens at present pressing so heavily upon the ratepayers of the parishes of London and of other towns in the United Kingdom, and that it would result in great and material benefits to the afflicted community." These were the words of Miss Groom, spoken to the writer hereof in April of the present year, and published in a pamphlet referring to that lady's work among the deaf and dumb. At the time this opinion was expressed Miss Groom was expecting an answer from the agents of the Canadian Government to a proposal which she had made in connection with her Emigration Scheme. The request which she made to the Canadian Government was very influentially supported and her petition was signed by many noblemen and gentlemen. The following opinion was at the time expressed as regards the probable result of her labours. "In confirmation of the practicability of the scheme of Miss Groom for emigration, if it could be carefully and properly administered, it may here be brought under the notice of our readers that several deaf and dumb emigrants who have taken land in Canada are now comfortably off and independent. Miss Groom is anxious that the scheme should be adopted for the indigent deaf and dumb in London and the Provinces, on account of the success attending those efforts in this direction which have come under her notice ; and she thinks that a great benefit would be derived by the deaf and dumb by the colonisation scheme if they could be scattered among the hearing and speaking residents in the Colony to which they may be deported. Miss Groom speaks as an expert ; she has been to Canada, where she stayed twelve months, and she declares, upon the experience she has acquired, that it would be a splendid locality for a settlement of the deaf and dumb."

Now, it may not unreasonably be asked what were the experiences Miss Groom had acquired to enable her to form such a scheme as that quoted above. One or two actual cases will be deemed, it is hoped, a sufficient answer to the question : and be it noted that these are cases

where emigration had taken place under the auspices of the lady herself. The first to be mentioned is that of "a bright and amiable deaf and dumb youth whom," Miss Groom remarks, "I sent out to Manitoba more than a year and a half ago. He was an orphan and friendless and I took him from the Union. He went to work on a farm in Manitoba; and to my astonishment, when I met him there he gave me proof that he was doing exceedingly well; he advised me respecting farming operations, he is a good judge of cattle, and bids fair to become a well-to-do farmer after a while. He asked me to bring out his deaf and dumb brother—to whom he is much attached—who is also a most promising youth. The new settler informed me, that he purposes next spring to obtain a full grant of land for himself and brother jointly. This young man is looked upon by his neighbours around (farmers) as a splendid worker, and he is much liked." So much for this deaf and dumb settler for the present, his abilities and social status will receive corroboration in another branch of our subject. The second experimental attempt at colonisation which Miss Groom made was a man, a carpenter by trade, who settled at the same time as the youth just mentioned; this man was a good workman at the bench and he knew the trade of building very thoroughly. In England he had been out of work for a considerable time and he had to live on charity. On his arrival in Manitoba he received much kindness from many persons who did all they could to help him, and he obtained good employment, earning on an average ten shillings a day; unfortunately, though urged to remain, he determined to leave the Dominion and return to England. Here he has been again unable to get work for some time past, and, after much trouble and anxiety to his family, when he did get into work he did not earn so much as he did in Manitoba. Had he stayed there and if he had not been obstinate in his determination to leave, his wife would have joined him, as she had sold part of her furniture in order to raise the necessary funds, he would by the present time have been comfortably off. The wife, who is likewise deaf and dumb, is a good dressmaker and she could have earned excellent wages at her trade and would have established a good business, as dressmakers are much wanted by the farmer's wives who will pay much more handsomely than at home for such work.

The answer of the Colonial Government which reached Miss Groom in April last was satisfactory. Every reasonable assistance was promised

to the intending deaf and dumb emigrants, provided certain specific regulations with regard to their proper conduct to the place of their settlement were carried out. This consent enabled Miss Groom to make a proper start in her scheme with the result which will be hereinafter related.

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#### IV.—MISS GROOM'S FIRST ATTEMPT.

Determined to enter upon her own responsibilities forthwith, Miss Groom made a selection of ten deaf and dumb men and two deaf and dumb boys whom she took to Manitoba, where some of them have been placed with farmers and some in business. These seem likely to do well in each case; and they intend as soon as their earnings admit, to obtain a full grant of cultivable land, as they all seem fond of farming and the occupation—as will be shown by and bye—promises a capital harvest for industrious men.

Previous to leaving London the deaf and dumb emigrants were met at St. Pancras Station by many of their friends similarly afflicted, to bid them "Good bye," and to wish them "God speed." "The scene," Miss Groom says, "was an affecting one, especially to their relatives. On our arrival at Liverpool we were met by Mr. Moreton, principal of the Leeds Deaf and Dumb School, who had brought a deaf youth with him to join our party. Mr. Moreton was most kind and attentive to us, and he was a great assistance to me personally, in looking after my charges, as the fatigue my work had already occasioned had knocked me up and I was very tired. Our united thanks are due to this gentleman for all that he did for us; his efforts were highly appreciated by our deaf and dumb party, who spoke in the most enthusiastic manner about him and regretted our pleasant time with him was so short. He offered to accompany us to see us safely on board the ship, which was a crowning act of a series of kindnesses we shall not forget. We were all very kindly treated by the officers and crew of the s.s. 'Sardinian,' who took a lively interest in our silent communications. We were all happy and felt quite at home with everybody. The arrangements for the emigrants were admirably carried out by Messrs. Pitt and Scott, of St. Paul's Churchyard. When I arrived at Manitoba with my charges and during my stay there, I received much kindness

and courteous assistance from the Hon. J. McTavish, Land Commissioner to the Canadian Pacific Railway; Major Bell, Mrs. Bell, Captain Graham, Captain Wastie, the Rev. H. Leslie, Mr. Trimble and Mr. Parker, the deaf and dumb settler. Mr. McTavish has promised to help me and to look after the new deaf and dumb settlers. Also he is going to write to me, while I am in London, giving me reports occasionally as to their progress individually, and how they are getting along generally."

In order to have a home for deaf and dumb settlers as well on their arrival in the Colony as when it should happen that they are out of work; also for the purpose of giving them the necessary instruction and farming experience so that as soon as they should gain knowledge enough, they might be in a position to qualify themselves to acquire a good "homestead" for themselves and families, Miss Groom has entered into an agreement to purchase about 386 acres of excellent land at Wolseley, about 300 miles from Winnipeg, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and situated about one mile from Wolseley Station. This land is "in one of the finest agricultural districts of the Northwest, the surrounding sections being all occupied and settled upon." The little town is thriving fast, and bids fair soon to become an important locality.

The following, told in Miss Groom's own words, forms a pleasing sequel to the incident related of the deaf and dumb farmer whom she met. "After our arrival, our party one day attended a lecture, given specially for their benefit, on the subject of farming by the farmer who owns 320 acres. My *protégées* were much interested and pleased with him, and declared that what they had seen previously and heard that day, had taught them enough to know how to begin operations, when they should get a "homestead" of their own. He informed me that when he "homesteaded and pre-empted" his land he had but a very little cash, and after only two or three years had passed another gentleman came to him, and, finding his land so highly cultivated and in such good order, offered him the sum of three thousand dollars for the same; but the deaf and dumb farmer considered his land worth at least three times that amount, and so he still retains it." Miss Groom thus proceeds with her narrative:—

"I placed five of my party on the farm of Major Bell, a gentleman well-known in Manitoba, who owns a very celebrated farm, covering



65,000 acres extending some ten miles around." Major Bell's property is situated at Indian Head; he has eighty cottages on the estate, and an immense quantity of farming implements. This gentleman employs a great number of agricultural labourers, and of my people he said that they would soon pick up and learn all that was necessary to earn their own living and to cultivate their 'homesteads,' as they were quick and could soon learn anything. They were delighted when I drove them over portions of Major Bell's estate, and were astonished to see such magnificent crops growing on the farm. Mrs. Bell and the Major were most kind and affable to me, and I have reason to believe that the more this gentle lady and her kind husband see of the deaf and dumb people the more they will feel an interest in the settlers I take out there, especially those who would require employment; they would find, at any rate, that the deaf men would do their work as well as the hearing men, and the former do not leave off to gossip as the others do."

Besides the five members of her people whom she placed in the employment of Major Bell, there was "one poor deaf and dumb shoemaker who was sent to a prosperous town in Manitoba to set up a shanty on his own account. Through the kind help of Mr. Parker, the farmer similarly afflicted, he is now doing well and earns good money. The sign of a wooden Wellington boot, which has been set up in front of the shanty is the sign likewise of a prosperous settler; thanks to the assistance given by the person alluded to." Another of my party, a saddle and harness maker by trade, was anxious to get a workshop of his own; but he had no capital to commence in business with, therefore the people have advised him to work on a farm for a time; as in a certain town where they have no one in his trade, he is promised custom as soon as he gets enough money to set up his business: he is certain to do well. Another is a bricklayer by trade. When he gets enough capital it is his intention to set up a brick kiln, as bricks are much needed by the farmers. Another is a cabinet maker, (late pupil of Dr. Schonhiel, of the Jewish School for the Deaf and Dumb, Notting Hill), and there is another pupil from the same school working on a farm. He is earning very good wages and will, after a time have a workshop, as the farmers and other residents need the services of resident cabinet makers, because there is so much to pay in the way of railway freight; and cost of transportation of town-made furniture is so heavy that they would be glad to give him orders for what they need in that line. Two

tailors of my party were somewhat disappointing as they did not know how to cut out clothes ; however, one has gone to a tailor to learn this, and the other has turned his hand to farm work for a time. I have been asked to bring first-class tailors to Manitoba, as they would be well paid, there being a difficulty to find tailors for thirty miles' round."

Thus, for the present, we may leave these early deaf and dumb settlers in a foreign country to engage in an equally balanced struggle with others for, if not wealth and position, at any rate for an honest, independent life of steady toil. Such a fate as this is one which means simply a haven of rest and happiness to these poor men, who, in the old world, would be tormented with their affliction, and harassed by their inability to keep themselves without soliciting charitable relief, or seeking the enforced pauperism of the workhouse.

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#### V.—ADVERSE CRITICISM AND ACTUAL PROSPECTS.

"On our arrival in Winnipeg," says Miss Groom, "and for some time during our stay, we were much abused by a certain section of the Winnipeg press, which naturally caused me and my party very great pain and annoyance. Some of these remarks even went so far as to suggest that Her Majesty's Government had sent the deaf and dumb out to Manitoba to be a burden to the community there. I, of course, was the only person who could defend my party, being alone in a foreign country."

This unkind attack upon these poor people and their kindly conductress, however, had its leaven of comfort, as the following extracts from the *Winnipeg Daily Times* will show. With the object of making these extracts clear it will be as well to quote one of the attacks complained of. In its issue of July 19, 1884, the *Winnipeg Daily Times* says:—

"We are informed that Mr. John Parker is himself a deaf mute. He owns one of the finest half sections in that especially favoured district watered by the Souris river, going through the same experiences as other settlers, and with equal cheerfulness and fortitude, to secure his claim. He has devoted the greater portion of his time during the past year or two to the business of drayman or city expressman in Brandon, and with such intelligence, honesty, and capacity as to secure for him the largest individual patronage enjoyed in the city. He is a member of the Brandon Rifle Association, and was one of the team representing that

club at the Stoney Mountain Ranges last summer. He is looked upon by all in Brandon as a useful and excellent citizen, and enjoys to a large extent the respect and confidence of the people.

"Such is John Parker, the deaf mute, as described to us by a gentleman who knows him well. When the kind-hearted benevolent Miss Groom arrived in this city with her small colony of deaf mutes, intending to select a suitable location for them, and to give them a good start as North-West farmers, the *Free Press* raised its well-timed voice of detraction and declared that they were unsuited for settlers in this country. It went so far as to say that the Government should prevent the immigration of people of this kind, poor helpless creatures who would find themselves dependent on the charity of the country the moment they were left to their own resources. Miss Groom was told that her benevolence was ill-directed, and that the North-West wanted no more of her or of her pauper charges. Her sin was that she had brought, at her own cost, to this country of illimitable extent, and which is crying aloud for people to come and settle in it, a colony of John Parkers."

An extract from the *Quebec Chronicle* commenting upon and quoting from the *Winnipeg Free Press*, together with the reply which appeared in the columns of the *Winnipeg Daily Times* of July 26th, 1884, will be well placed here. The *Quebec Chronicle* speaks upon the subject of the immigration of the deaf and dumb to Canada, in the following fashion:—

"The *Winnipeg Free Press* of recent date tells the following remarkable story. It says that a consignment of deaf mutes has been brought to that city from England, and dumped into the Immigrant Sheds. Our contemporary says further that more of the same sort are to follow. This is surely an incorrect statement. We cannot believe that the story of the *Free Press* is true. Canada wants all the able-bodied settlers she can get, men and women willing to work and to help to make the country of their adoption prosperous and strong, but she does not want paupers and mutes. Those who authorised the shipment of the unfortunates described by the *Winnipeg* newspaper have a grave responsibility on their consciences. The story is given with great circumstantiality, and it may be true. We ought to have an authoritative denial from some official source, if such denial can be made. The matter is one of vital importance to the community."

To this "tall talk" the *Winnipeg Daily Times* makes reply, and says:—

"Terrible as it is, it must be confessed that the story is quite true in the main. That is, a number of deaf mutes—a half-dozen or so—have been brought to the city, but they were not dumped into the Immigrant Shed; they got off the train without assistance and walked into it. It is also, we believe, quite true that more are to follow; at least we hope so, and if Miss Groom is not driven out of the country in disgust at the coarse and brutal abuse heaped upon her while here, it will be so. It is true that they may be described as 'unfortunates.' While giving them mental facilities which, under happier circumstances might have fitted them for great editors, and physical powers which qualify them for the ordinary duties of life, it has pleased God to deny them the inestimable blessings of hearing and speech. The story is true, therefore, to the extent that they are here, that more are likely to come, and that they are unfortunate.

"There can be no denial, authoritative or otherwise; they are here, and they have come to stay. Miss Groom has openly avowed her intention to assist others of the same class to make a start in the Canadian North-West. To a woman of such evident Christian benevolence, the responsibility which weighs upon her conscience most probably suggested that it was her duty to help them out of the over-crowded, bustling, unfeeling world of London, and give them a chance for a new life under better auspices in the growing North-West. It was a high-minded noble Christian resolve, one of infinite tenderness and virtue, and no good man or woman will put a straw in the way of her carrying it out."

To answer these conflicting opinions, which, be it remarked, are not altogether devoid of a certain amount of political party rancour on the part of the *Free Press*, requires but little effort on our part. That which is described as "coarse and brutal abuse" cannot well be denominated by an epithet much more forcible or one more truthful. In printing these extracts here, it gives justification to all which Miss Groom herself has remarked upon the attack, and the effect it had upon her and her afflicted charges; be it remembered that Miss Groom herself is one of the afflicted, but she has managed so far to overcome the loss of speech and hearing that she has been enabled to give to the writer of these pages, who does not understand the sign language, all the information necessary for his purpose. It is well to mention this circumstance just now, as it most conclusively proves that the deaf mute can to a very great extent

overcome his or her affliction. As a further proof, if proof were needed, of what an equal chance there is for the deaf mute to obtain a respectable position in the world, if only he is able by some means to make a start, the first extract from the Winnipeg newspaper speaking of Mr. John Parker amply confirms the position assumed. Here we have the case of a man who has worked himself up to a decent respectable and respected position, despite his social disabilities, despite the drawbacks which nature had put upon him. The moral of it all lies in this—Mr. Parker has succeeded, Miss Groom's former *protégées* have succeeded, Miss Groom's last emigrants promise to succeed equally well; and why should not this "Land of Promise," as Canada has not inaptly been called, be a sort of "Open Sesame" to the indigent deaf mute who desires to make a position and gain an honest respectable livelihood for himself. All things being allowed for, the prospect of the deaf mute is as favourable as is that of the man not so afflicted. "Manitoba," said Lord Dufferin, "may be regarded as the keystone of that mighty arch of sister provinces which spans the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Canada, the owner of half a continent, in the magnitude of her possessions, in the wealth of her resources, in the sinews of her material might, is peer of any power on earth." The Marquis of Lorne said: "I cannot help thinking that we have a great opening for the charity and goodwill of wealthy citizens in assisting families out to the new country with £50 to £100 each family in their pocket. I would not advise anybody to go without anything, although I have known many to succeed well who began with nothing. . . . Men go with only a few pounds, and hiring themselves to farmers, may in time win enough to buy an outfit for a farm for themselves. . . . Do not let anyone imagine that he will rapidly make a fortune . . . [The North-West] will beyond question attract hundreds of settlers to this highly-favoured region, where four million acres of choice lands are thrown open and twenty-eight thousand homesteads of 160 acres each are offered to satisfy the land hunger of the old and new world. . . . Canada is not an El Dorado: but a comfortable home on his own soil to any man who has a good pair of hands, and decent knowledge how to use them." Of Manitoba, named by the North American Indians as "The Lands of the Great and Good Spirit," Professor Tanner, of the Institute of Agriculture, London, says: "It would be difficult to imagine the growth of luxuriant crops under more simple conditions of tillage than those which are here practised.

Dealing with a rich and generally deep virgin soil of remarkable fertility, there is less necessity for that refinement of good husbandry which is so important in exhausted, or even partially exhausted soils. The rough culture which some of the lands here receive, especially from those who have never held a plough before, seem to command the special sympathies of nature, and luxuriant crops smile favourably upon the efforts of even inexperienced farmers. . . . Some farms are held by labouring men, who have commenced business without any more capital than was enough to pay the office fees for securing the land, and who have had their ploughing and sowing done for them by some neighbours to whom they have given their own labour in exchange. I will mention just one typical case, out of hundreds that were met with.

“ ‘I came here,’ said my informant, ‘eighteen months ago, with my brother; we had just two dollars (eight shillings) between us when we had paid the office fees for the 160 acres of land. We worked for wages for many a day (five or six shillings a day we got), and we also put up our log hut, so that before winter I was able to get my wife and family up from Ontario. We have now eighty acres cropped with wheat and we owe no man anything. Next year we shall have 150 acres of wheat and all our own. We shall then take another lot of land, and make it right for my brother.’ ” The Professor also notes the enormous quantity of wild flowers and fruits with which the country abounds, and the report of Professor Shelton corroborates the statement made by the eminent authority just quoted; together with the no less important, statements of the Duke of Manchester and Professor Goldwin Smith.

Without encumbering these pages with more quotations from these great authorities it may at once be asked what could give greater promise for success, generally, than the natural state of the country to which it is proposed to deport the deaf and dumb able-bodied men and women willing to work and only too happy to get the work to do? These men and women *are* willing to work, given that they are not molested, or that the competition which weighs so heavily upon them while they are at home is relaxed under the special and more comfortable conditions of life in the colonies where such a harsh state of things does not predominate; these men and women will become as good at stock-raising, grain culture, the cultivation of fruits, hops, tomatoes, flax, hemp, rice, and sugar-cane, as the best of the speaking and hearing producers, while they will be no less adept at the profitable and amusing

occupations of hunting and fishing. The women will make just as good assistants at all dairy, laundry and domestic work, besides being able to occupy themselves with the cares of bee-raising or with such trades as dressmaking and all other branches of creative domestic industry. What, in the name of all that is reasonable, is there to prevent these poor people from being able to lead more happy, contented and independent lives, if only a chance of doing so be given to them?

## VI.—MISS GROOM'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

Of the future operations of Miss Groom enough has been foreshadowed by the description of what she has already accomplished to show in what direction her efforts will be made. It has already been stated that Miss Groom has secured one of the best land allotments at Wolseley, on terms which will hereinafter be explained, where she desires to create what may be termed a central settlement to which new male and female settlers may come while in search of employment, or while learning the rudiments of husbandry or other industries prior to being sent on to farms or into businesses belonging to the deaf and dumb community already established; or, in other cases, where men and women may temporarily ply their trades, as new comers, so as to earn their living whilst they are looking around them for the purpose of arranging a place of settlement. Those who desire to adopt farming as a pursuit will be taught all branches of agricultural knowledge by a farm manager, to be employed exclusively on Miss Groom's allotment at Wolseley, and, if he be a married man, his wife will have the duty of looking after the home and of teaching the female settlers how to make cheese and butter, and how to manage the working laundry, which will be established on the "homestead," as there is good pay to be earned by practical women in this department. The men and women, then, on leaving Miss Groom's homestead, will be in a position to earn their own living, and the friends out there who are interested in Miss Groom's work have promised to assist in procuring employment for them. Those who desire to learn before engaging on their duties will be taught how to be of use to their employers; those who know trades will be assisted in getting employment; and those who wish to set up for themselves will be aided by the unbiassed and unprejudiced advice of their friends.

Women who know any trade will be assisted in the same way ; and, as young and useful girls are much wanted as domestic servants, the wages amounting to as much as £30 to £40 per annum, with board, Miss Groom intends to take out women who are desirable for this branch of industry, speaking and mute as well. Speaking women, then, will be certain of a true friend should they elect to go out with one of Miss Groom's future parties.

A man, as has been proved by the words of the Marquis of Lorne and Professor Tanner, can, under ordinary conditions, easily become the owner of a "Homestead" : to all who so desire Miss Groom's scheme will render assistance of the most valuable kind that can be conceived. Of course it is Miss Groom's intention personally to conduct her charges to the new home she is establishing for them, and her periodical visits thereto cannot but have a most salutary effect ; as all will strive their hardest to merit the commendation of their benefactress, and to have the best reports of their progress sent to the old country. Intending settlers are advised to bring plenty of warm woollen clothing and blankets ; other necessaries can nearly all be procured in the Colony at prices which are not extravagantly dear. Qu'Appelle has been recommended by Miss Groom to some of her charges in the event of their seeking to "homestead" themselves prior to her next visit to the Dominion. This is a flourishing town on the opposite side of the Canadian Pacific Railway, not very far from Wolseley, within perhaps 20 miles of the latter place. There is plenty of sport and shooting near Qu'Appelle, and, as it is a central district, the emigrants would be better off there in making an independent start. The country is lovely and delightful, fully realising the description of the Marquis of Lorne in speaking of "the endless meadows of Manitoba." "I have seen men," said the Marquis, "who have been compelled to live in the squalor of the town, or who had sought in vain to raise sufficient nourishment for themselves and their families . . . surrounded by breadths of ripened crops in rich and well cultivated fields, and owners of excellent houses, with trim gardens and snug verandahs, where I have sat with them looking at the beautiful sunlight and speaking of their former experiences in the old country. There is not one amongst them who will not tell you that much as he loves Scotland or Ireland his lot is incomparably brighter in his new home." As regards the climate, it has been described by a high authority whom we have previously quoted, Professor Tanner,



as being "far more enjoyable than that of England," and it is also spoken of in the following terms in the latest report issued by the Department of Agriculture for the Province of Manitoba. "On account of the bracing dry atmosphere, the fluctuations of climate are not inconveniently felt as is the case where the atmosphere is more humid. The warm days in Summer are generally followed by cool evenings, and such a thing as very sultry or oppressive heat is scarcely known. The warm days, followed by cool nights and copious dews, facilitate the growth of cereals in a wonderful degree. The winters here are also very pleasant and bracing, proceeding from the same cause, namely, the dryness of our atmosphere." The only times when special precautions are needed, are of very rare occurrence and these are when the winter winds happen to be rough and violent. Settlers need not fear that they have to encounter any special hardship. Let them only be ready always to "be up and doing, with a heart for any fate, still achieving, still pursuing, learn to labour and to wait," as Longfellow hath it in his magnificently beautiful "Psalm of Life."

## VII.—AN APPEAL FOR THE PROJECT.

Previous to laying any proposal before the readers hereof it is necessary to point out in specific terms the position of the whole affair; and it is as well to quote authorities in order that proper evidence may be published so that all who read may be satisfied with the entire *bonâ fides* of the plan as originated by Miss Groom. The following letter from Mr. McTavish may as well be put in at this juncture, this will go to set out two or three important points fully, (a) the manner in which Miss Groom's Wolseley Estate is held, (b) the exact particulars of the same, and (c) an estimation of the funds absolutely necessary to be raised. Without future comment, then, this letter is printed:—

(Copy) "Land Department,

"Canadian Pacific Railway Company,

"Winnipeg, Manitoba, 30th Oct., 1884.

"Miss Jane E. Groom,

"London, England,

"My Dear Miss Groom,

"I regret very much to hear that you have been disappointed in regard to your expected remittances from England for carrying on the highly laudable and philanthropic object of your visit to the North West.

"As you cannot carry on your work without funds and as your chances of securing them will be better in England than here I certainly approved of your determination to cross the Atlantic without further delay ; and sincerely trust that your friends will come to your assistance to such an extent as will enable you to clear off your liabilities, complete your house for the deaf and dumb, and put the institution into a good working order.

"As you are aware I made a selection of a very choice section of land near one of our promising townsites and gave it to you at a figure which I considered below its value ; with the undertaking, however, that its cultivation should be proceeded with without loss of time. As your creditors might have become impatient and attach the land which was in your name, I thought it advisable that you should return it to us to be held for you until you are in a position to carry out the terms of sale.

"I do not think you should attempt to return to this country with less than £1,000 sterling, with which you could complete your house, pay for your land, and do the necessary cultivation.

"I may mention that owing to the experience gained during the past season I would be inclined to put a clause in the contract for the land enforcing the cultivation of a section portion to comply with our ordinary conditions of sales of sections alongside and in view of the Railway track. This was not stipulated for in the previous agreement but was understood between us.

"I shall be happy during your absence to do what I can for your *progrès* and will have our people look after their welfare in every possible manner."

"The description of your land is as follows :—All that part of the North half and South East Quarter Section, 15, Township 17, Range 10, West second initial meridian lying North of the Canadian Pacific Right of Way, and containing, by admeasurement, 386 acres more or less. It is situated within a mile of Wolseley Station on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in one of the finest agricultural districts of the North West, the surrounding section being all occupied and settled upon.

"Trusting that your generous friends in England may come forward handsomely and assist you in the great efforts you are making in the cause of suffering humanity.

"I remain, yours sincerely,

(signed)

"J. McTAVISH,

"Land Commissioner."

The above letter, as previously remarked, speaks for itself, and needs no comment. Of Miss Groom's financial connection with the scheme her own words will be the best evidence:—"May I say that I have worked hard among the deaf and dumb without any salary for more than three years. Of course I have found the expenses very heavy, besides which I have provided money for those of my party in Wolseley who had nor sufficient for all the incidental costs of their start. I am quite £150 out of pocket, and I think if a fund be started for carrying out my scheme, I should like to ask the Trustees to repay me what I have expended. Should my people get on well in Canada, they will be able to support their own poor, and I would have established a home out there where the needy in this country could be supported by their more thriving relatives in the Canadian North-West. By this means the metropolis and the provinces may in the future be relieved of many distressed deaf mutes who are at present chargeable on the rates, and the needy will not then have to go to the workhouse."

The question is, how is this scheme to be put on a proper footing? The means are easy if only the necessary funds should be forthcoming. The amount required is not large but should be administered by a properly constituted committee who would easily be able to regulate the affair. It should be an industrial fund and not a charitable one, beyond the fact that it must be initiated by the charitably disposed. The fairest scheme would be something of the following description:—let it be assumed that 40 kind persons who feel an interest in this great work subscribe £25 each; or 200 subscribe £5 each; or, for the sake of argument which can be varied indefinitely, 1,000 subscribe £1 each. This sum should form a charge on the property in Canada until the debt so established, together with interest say at five per cent., should be paid back out of the earnings of the settlers. This would make it a fund somewhat resembling a building society; and, in case of good progress being achieved, it could be increased as the prospects of the scheme warranted an extension of the operations already begun in that grand country, where there is a splendid opportunity for all, and where there is room for thousands of our overcrowded population to emigrate to if they so desire. Should any plan resembling the above be carried into practical work it will "be twice blessed, blessing him that gives and him that takes."

## VIII.—CONCLUDING REMARKS.

To all who are hereby entreated to give help to enable the deaf and dumb working poor to emigrate to Canada, or, indeed to all who may ask: Is the emigration of the deaf and dumb a wise and a good thing? It is well at the conclusion of our task to adduce all the power of the facts which have been elaborated herein and to let the evidence of these be the reply to those who doubt; but it may be advisable to intimate here that Miss Groom is most anxious to be asked any questions on the subject of this pamphlet and that she will always be ready to give replies by letter or personally. She is so anxious for the success of her scheme for the relief of these poor people whose cause she is advocating that everything and anything which she can do she is ready to perform in order to bring this project to a successful issue.

The points to which we have endeavoured to direct attention are as follow:—

- 1.—The distress which prevails amongst the deaf and dumb of the industrial class arises from causes which they themselves are powerless to resist;
- 2.—Therefore, the deaf and dumb are forced to seek relief in all the channels open to them, which is a moral degradation highly to be deplored;
- 3.—Miss Groom, observing this, sent out some pioneers to test the utility of her scheme;
- 4.—This experiment resulting in a success,
- 5.—Miss Groom determined to try another experiment on a larger scale, which becomes the basis of her project, generally.
- 6.—Despite hostile criticism it is shewn that Canada offers the means for these poor people to earn a living.
- 7.—Miss Groom's formulated plans are, even in their present unavoidably sketchy condition, practicable and admirable; and
- 8.—The first settlement is made under conditions which cannot reasonably be considered inauspicious and under circumstances which may lead to the expectation of a bright future in store for these poor and afflicted persons.

Such then, in brief, is the sum of what it has been the endeavour of Miss Groom to establish in this simple statement of facts, every detail of which can be proved,

It is the intention of Miss Groom to take another party of emigrants out to Wolseley next spring. She will take speaking women emigrants and a *posse* of her deaf mute male and female *protégées*. For these Miss Groom has good situations in various industrial occupations in view; and, it is requested that persons desirous of joining in her work may communicate with her on the subject.

All letters to be addressed to Miss J. E. Groom, at her Bible Mission Morley Hall, Hackney, London.

Any subscriptions kindly given to *Miss Groom's Emigration Fund* may be paid in to Miss R. E. Fry's account at the London and County Bank, Romford, Essex.

It now only remains to recommend this project to the kindly consideration of the readers of this pamphlet, and earnestly to hope that they will see fit to lend a helping hand to a plan of benevolence than which surely none has ever been more truly philanthropic, practical or useful to the common good of the greatest number. In thus dismissing the subject to the consideration of the public, the writer merely desires to call the attention of his readers to the proverb, "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord," and he trusts that they will give some substantial and personal aid to Miss Groom's scheme.

H.H.

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## APPENDIX.

Those who are interested in the Deaf and Dumb will be pleased to have an opportunity of perusing the following correspondence:—

(*Copy of Letter to Mrs. Fawcett.*)

"Madam,

"I beg on behalf of the Deaf and Dumb in this district, and more particularly on behalf of the members of my Bible Class for Deaf Mutes held at Morley Hall, Hackney, to offer you our sincerest and most heartfelt condolence on the sad loss you, and the country generally, have sustained.

"In your late husband we have seen a noble life which has overcome physical disabilities such as would have daunted a less heroic nature; in that same gentle and admirable life we, who are of God's afflicted,

and whose lives are sad and sorrowful through being deprived of speech and hearing, can learn a lesson of patience and courage in endeavouring, as far as in us lies, to overcome our affliction, and to render ourselves useful to the public and to each other.

"I trust, Madam, that you will not consider this expression of our condolence an intrusion ; rest assured that we shall all pray that you may be vouchsafed to you strength to sustain your irreparable loss.

"I have the honour to be, Madam,

"On behalf of self and fellow-sufferers,

"Yours most obediently,

(signed) "JANE ELIZABETH GROOM.

"To Mrs. Fawcett,  
Brookside, Cambridge."

To which the following was the reply :—

"18, Brookside,

"Cambridge,

"Mrs. Henry Fawcett and Philippa Fawcett desire to offer their heartfelt thanks for all the kind sympathy they have received during their present great sorrow. It has helped them very much to be assured of the love and reverence so widely felt for their dear husband and mother.

"November, 1884."

The above kindly worded recognition of the comfort derived from the sympathy expressed by the Deaf and Dumb community, amongst others, is particularly gratifying to those whose feelings are doubly keen with regard to the great man who has so recently departed from our midst.